

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

University of Maribor (UM) is a public, broad-based institution committed to excellence in education, the extension of knowledge through basic, applied research, creative and artistic expression. UM promotes international multi-disciplinary cooperation and fair competition. The UM provides equal opportunity to students, and embraces as its core values freedom of thought and expression and non-discrimination. UM is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. UM aims to promote partnerships with businesses, governmental and NGOs in society to enrich teaching, research and creativity; prepare engaged citizens; strengthen democratic and ethical values, and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; respect environmental issues; promote sustainability in development; and contribute to the public good.

Study Programmes and research shall be oriented towards the demand by European economy and society, what is facilitated and steered by the Research and Arts Zone of UM in line with the Research and Development Strategy of UM. This shall prevent unemployment of graduates after a long education and fill gaps in the supply chain of the knowledge transfer line from idea to innovation. Thus, University of Maribor shall continue to improve the mechanisms of quality assurance through its new quality culture strategy adopted in 2012. Constant internal and periodic external measuring and evaluation of quality shall support the development of a quality culture.

Provided by the geographic conditions, University of Maribor shall remain to be a bridge between Western and Northern European areas and South-East Europe, through its cultural and historic integration in both, the central European alpine, the eastern European flatland area and the South European Adriatic area. This unique comprehension of all three European main areas set forth the commitment of University of Maribor to be an active motor for the linking of qualitative mobility across the close borders of Slovenia, but also the wider borders between all Danube and Adriatic universities and higher education institutions. Knowledge transfer – the bridge between the creative mind and the practical innovative application, i.e. bringing together students and researchers and entrepreneurs, shall be handled by the Research and Arts Zone of University of Maribor striving to create a pool of the brightest minds of the region for the goal of a key innovation centre for Central and South East Europe, for a cohesive and modern European region within the European Higher Education Area. In a developed central and South Eastern Europe, we shall not fear brain drain and loss of the young.

University of Maribor has and shall continue to foster integration and improvement of quality of university management, especially in its region, where these aspects of higher education management still lack behind the other European areas. Such a modernisation of university management and structure based on the principles of rational use of resources and optimisation of spending within the set of priorities shall also lead to a more effective funding of research and teaching and to attractiveness for stakeholders from business for cooperation in the Research and Arts Zone of UM and the return of mobile students to their homes.

In order to provide the above mentioned modernisation and development, University of Maribor shall enhance and widen its network of bilateral partners from higher education institutions across Europe and beyond within its roof document on internationalisation, but with a special focus on regional development. Activities of University of Maribor for an increase of mobility from and to UM shall be open for all interested, especially those with less advantaged students and staff members. It shall be the main focus of the Association of Handicapped Students of UM and the Student Council of UM to assist the university in making mobility accessible to students with special needs, socially disadvantaged students, of both genders and with all religious and ethnic backgrounds. All members

of the university are constantly introduced to these basic principles of University of Maribor, whether they are academic or administrative staff members, and UM spreads the success of good practices within its own structures and in its networks. Special emphasis shall be put on practical training and recognition of soft skills within the developed study programmes.

Not only due to the rationalisation process, but mainly due to the established needs for inter-disciplinarity and international integration of University of Maribor, the strategy of internationalisation shall always define a priority for international multi-disciplinary degree programmes on all levels, with an emphasis of automatic recognition of prior agreed and realised study achievements based on ECTS. UM shall do its best to overcome any obstacles in the creation of such programmes.